



Marcia Mayeda
Director

County of Los Angeles
Department of Animal Care and Control
Administrative Office
5898 Cherry Avenue
Long Beach, California 90805
(562) 728-4610 • Fax (562) 422-3478
<http://animalcare.lacounty.gov>



Shelter Locations

Downey Shelter
11258 S. Garfield Ave.
Downey, CA 90242
(562) 940-6898

Carson Shelter
216 W. Victoria St.
Gardena, CA 90248
(310) 523-9566

Baldwin Park Shelter
4275 N. Elton St.
Baldwin Park, CA 91706
(626) 962-3577

Lancaster Shelter
5210 W. Avenue I
Lancaster, CA 93536
(661) 940-4191

Castaic Shelter
31044 N. Charlie Cyn.
Road
Castaic, CA 91384
(661) 257-3191

Agoura Shelter
29525 Agoura Rd.
Agoura, CA 91301
(818) 991-0071

Major Case Unit
11258 S. Garfield Ave.
Downey, CA 90242
(562) 658-2000

May 26, 2009

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

29 MAY 26, 2009

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

**DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL
REMOVAL OF CERTAIN FEES FROM THE LOS ANGELES
COUNTY CODE, TITLE 10 - ANIMALS
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

Approval of the recommended amendments to Title 10 of the County Code removes certain Department of Animal Care and Control (Department) fees from Title 10 of the Los Angeles County Code and implements a fee adjustment process that provides for adoption of a resolution establishing the Department fees on an annual or other periodic basis. The proposed process to establish Department fees is consistent with the fee adoption process utilized by other County departments and provides for a more effective method for ensuring that the Department is authorized to recover the costs of providing animal care and control services. The recommended amendments to Title 10 also include changes to other Title 10 sections relating to business licensing of dogs for security purposes, rental of cat and dog traps, and other changes as described.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve the Ordinance amending Title 10 - ANIMALS of the Los Angeles County Code to add, delete, and modify the relevant sections related to fees and other changes in Department operations; and
2. Introduce, waive reading, and adopt the Ordinance.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION

Currently, fees charged to the public for all Department services are established in Title 10 of the Los Angeles County Code. Many of these fees have not been updated in several years, creating a discrepancy between the cost to provide the services and the amount of fees collected to offset these costs. The costs to provide services change annually due to cost variations related to: labor, medications and food, facility maintenance and improvements, utilities, equipment repair and replacement, and other related supplies and factors that impact the cost to provide the service. Removal of these fees from Title 10 of the Los Angeles County Code and providing for fee changes enacted by the Board of Supervisors through a resolution instead of ordinance amendment will streamline the fee adjustment process. The proposed process requires the Department to work annually in collaboration with the Auditor-Controller to develop recommended fee adjustments for consideration by your Board.

Departmental revenue would be augmented as a result of fee increases obtained for services performed for the benefit of residents of the County's unincorporated communities. In addition, adjustments to certain fees for redemption of animals claimed by residents of client contract cities would be passed along to these contract cities and provide an offset to monthly charges for services rendered by the Department.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended action supports the County's Strategic Plan Goal of Community and Municipal Services (Goal 3) through ensuring resources are available to deliver customer oriented municipal services to the County's diverse unincorporated communities and Strategic Plan Goal of Public Safety (Goal 5) through ensuring resources are available to provide for the safety and security of the people of Los Angeles County.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

This recommended action will have no fiscal impact. If this recommended action is approved, the Department will provide your Board with recommended fee increases and adjustments as a separate action subsequent to the effective date of this Ordinance change.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The proposed Ordinance change will allow the Department, in conjunction with the Auditor-Controller and upon approval by your Board, to set its fees and costs for services annually to ensure they accurately reflect the current costs of services as appropriate. It is recommended that your Board approve the proposed Ordinance changes to:

Amend Los Angeles County Code to add §10.04.065 Fees for Services to allow fees and costs for animal-related services to be recommended by the Department, in conjunction with the Auditor-Controller, annually, or less frequently, for consideration by your Board and, if adopted by the Board, posted in each shelter and on the Department's Website;

Amend various sections in the Los Angeles County Code to comport with the addition of §10.04.065;

Remove §10.12.111 Traps for Cats and Dogs - Rental Conditions. The Department no longer rents traps to the public for use with capturing cats or dogs. As such, this section is obsolete;

Amend §10.20.270 Licensing of Businesses Using Dogs for Protection; §10.20.280 Licensing of Dogs Used by Businesses for Protection; §10.20.290 Inspection of Business Premises Required Annually - Fee; §10.20.300 Licensing - Information Required, and §10.20.310 Sign Required on Premises - Contents. The recommended changes further clarify and define the license requirements of businesses that utilize dogs to deter and protect a business from entry by unauthorized individuals;

Amend §10.36.190 - Impounding Fees - Veterinary Care. The recommended change updates language to authorize private veterinary care for animals and recovery of all fees and costs by the animal's owner upon redemption; and

Amend §10.90.010 Fee Schedule. The recommended change will remove fees that will be recommended annually by the Department in conjunction with the Auditor-Controller for consideration by the Board of Supervisors.

The proposed changes to the Los Angeles County Code Title 10 have been approved by County Counsel.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
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IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended action will have no impact on current services.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to the Department of Animal Care and Control.

Respectfully submitted,



MARCIA MAYEDA
Director

MM:DD:mtm

c: Chief Executive Officer
Acting County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors